

# Pleasant View Proclaimer

**Pleasant View church of Christ**

## Encouragement

**September 24, 2017**

**Issue 329**

Tim was excited about trying out for the high school play. He was a shy boy. He had never played sports or done anything to draw attention to himself. His mother was anxious about Tim trying out for the play. She didn't want him to be disappointed if he didn't get it. When the cast members were posted, Tim was thrilled to see his name on the sheet. He ran to the office to call his mother. "Mom," he yelled, "I got a part! I got a part!"

"Really?" his mom said. "What part did you get?"

"Well, it says I will be 'Guy In Crowd Who Claps And Cheers.'" His mom just laughed and thought that

part was perfect for him.

The world need more people who stand in the crowd and clap and cheer. We need fewer fault-finders, finger-pointers, and nay-sayers. We need more people who put wind in the sails instead of putting sticks in the mud. We need more grinners and fewer grumblers. Thankfully, the Bible gives us many examples of how encouragers changed the course of history for the better.

The best example comes from the one who the apostles nicknamed "Barnabas," which means "son of encouragement." Barnabas sold property and gave the proceeds to the apostles in

Jerusalem. He introduced and defended the newly converted Saul to the apostles. He sent relief supplies from the church in Antioch to the poorer residents of Judea. He did mission work with his cousin (or nephew) John Mark, even though John Mark had deserted an earlier mission effort.

Gossip has always been sinful, and discouragement is not a fruit of the Spirit. So, let's resolve to be so encouraging that our names will be synonymous with encouragement.

"Let us consider how to stimulate one another to love and good deeds" (Heb. 10:24).

James Hayes

### Items of Note:

- Maime Hamilton got a good report after her surgery. No cancer so far!
- Rebecca Brown has been sick lately.
- Kim Waller will have shoulder surgery Tuesday.
- Thank you to Freddie Brown and Jeff Baker for preaching on short notice for James last Sunday.
- Continue to pray for the citizens of Texas, Florida, and Puerto Rico.

## This Morning's Sermon: "Gospel" Tonight's Sermon: "How To Accept Criticism"

THOSE WHO WILL SERVE THE CONGREGATION

Sunday School  
Read: J. Buchanan  
Pray: Reed

Morning Worship  
Wait on the Table: Billingsley  
Serve: Doug, Gupton, Hovis  
Pray: John Hayes

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Pleasant View church of Christ  
2500 Highway 49 East  
P.O. Box 189  
Pleasant View, TN 37146

Sunday School: 9:30  
A.M. Worship: 10:30  
P.M. Worship: 6:00  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 pm  
Phone: 924-9714

Proverbs 2:6-7  
“For the Lord gives wisdom;  
from His mouth come  
knowledge and  
understanding. He stores up  
sound wisdom for the  
upright; He is a shield to  
those who walk in integrity.”

*“Never close your lips to those whom you have  
already opened your heart.”*

*Charles Dickens*

*“Love is not affectionate feeling, but a steady  
wish for the other person’s ultimate good as far  
as it can be obtained.”*

*C.S. Lewis*

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## Discipleship

Matthew 11:28-30: “Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest. Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls. For My yoke is easy and my burden is light.”

Dietrich Bonhoeffer was a German theologian and Nazi-dissident. He was imprisoned in a concentration camp during World War II and later hanged as the Nazi regime was collapsing. He wrote this about Matthew 11:28-30: “Those who follow Jesus’s commandment entirely, who let Jesus’s yoke rest on them without resistance, will find the burden they must bear to be light. In the gentle

pressure of His yoke they will receive the strength to walk in the right path without becoming weary...

Where will the call to discipleship lead those who follow it? What decisions and painful separations will it entail? We must take this question to Him who alone knows the answer. Only Jesus Christ, who bids us follow Him, knows where the path will lead. But we know that it will be a path full of mercy beyond measure. Discipleship is joy.”

Do you consider discipleship joy? If not, why not? James said that we should find joy in trials because they produce endurance (James 1:2-3). The apostle Paul was singing with Silas while chained in a Philippian

dungeon. Dietrich Bonhoeffer could write about the joy of discipleship knowing that his commitment to Christ would likely lead to his execution. So I ask again: Do you consider discipleship joy?

If you find following Christ to be overly burdensome, have you considered the possibility that your problem is not your circumstances, but rather your faith? Maybe you don’t trust God as much as you used to. Maybe your prayer life is not as vibrant as it once was. Don’t let your circumstances alter your faith. Let your faith alter your circumstances.

James Hayes

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